

U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit
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(706) 545-5436

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USAMU Soldier wins Gold Medal at World Cup

By Sara Greenlee
USA Shooting

FORT BENNING, Ga. – Sgt. 1st Class Jason A. Parker of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit started the United States out on the right foot, April 10 as he won the Gold Medal and an Olympic Country Quota Slot for the 2008 Olympics at Beijing, China, with a world record performance in Men's Air Rifle at the World Cup in Changwon, Korea.

Parker went into the finals tied for second place with a score of 598 points out of a possible 600 and hit a tremendous final score of 104.7 out of a possible 109 to tie the final world record and catapult himself to the top of the competition at the very first World Cup of the new quadrennium.

In 1998, Parker set two World Records in Air Rifle at the World Cup in Munich, Germany, and finished in fifth place in Air Rifle at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia. At the World Cup USA in Atlanta, Ga., in 2002, Parker won the Gold Medal and an Olympic Quota Slot for the 2004 Olympics; he competed in the Olympics last year in Athens and took eighth place in Air Rifle. He and his wife, Andrea, live in Fortson, with their son Thomas.

Sgt. 1st Class Thomas A. Tamas, also of the USAMU, walked away with a Silver Medal in the Men's Prone Rifle event at the Korean World Cup April 12. Tamas went into the finals in first place with a score of 597 out of 600, and hit a 101.5 in the final for the Silver.

Tamas, a 2000 and 1992 Olympian, and the Prone Rifle World Record Holder, was the Prone Rifle World Champion in 1998 as well as winning the Gold Medal in Prone at the prestigious World Cup Finals that year. The Columbus, Ga., native and his wife, Betty, live in Pittsview, Ala.

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(Formed in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to raise the standards of marksmanship throughout the U.S. Army, the Army Marksmanship Unit is assigned to the Accessions Support Brigade of Fort Knox, Ky., which is under U.S. Army Accessions Command, of Fort Monroe, Va. Accessions Command is charged with overseeing recruiting and training of the Army's enlisted Soldiers and officers. The Marksmanship Unit trains its Soldiers to win competitions and enhances combat readiness through train-the-trainer clinics, research and development. The world-class Soldier-athletes of the USAMU also promote the Army and assist recruiters in attracting young Americans to enlist in the Army. For more information on the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, contact the Public Affairs Office at (706) 545-5436, paula.pagan@usaac.army.mil or <http://www.usarec.army.mil/hq/amu/>. For more information on USA Shooting, contact media director Sara Greenlee at (719) 866-4896, sara.greenlee@usashooting.org or <http://www.usashooting.com>.)